

NSC BRIEFING

9 May 1957

ITALY

- I. Segni government fell 6 May after Saragat's Democratic Socialists withdrew from government.
  - A. Party believes Segni government moving too slowly with important reforms.
  - B. Party left convinced withdrawal would expedite reunion with Nenni Socialists.
- II. An all Christian Democratic cabinet without majority support-- party holds only 265 seats of 590 (see pie)--now seems most likely successor government.
  - A. Cabinet forming efforts likely to be protracted, with most likely prospective premiers Segni, Interior Minister Tambroni, Minister-without-portfolio Gonella, and Budget Minister Zoli.
- III. An all Christian Democratic cabinet would probably continue present foreign and defense policies but would be weak and short-lived.
  - A. Important domestic reform measures would be blocked.
  - B. Too close an association with right on domestic issues, moreover, would antagonize the reform-minded Christian Democratic left wing and might cause it to break away.
- IV. National elections, mandatory by spring of 1958, may thus occur by fall.

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